

HONORING MELISSA JONES

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Melissa Jones of the Legacy High School girls' basketball team. On March 22, 2007, Melissa was selected as the All-Colorado Player of the Year by the Rocky Mountain News staff with input from coaches statewide.

This was Melissa Jones' senior season playing for the Legacy High School Lightning. During prior seasons Melissa demonstrated her superb abilities and proved to be a stand-out player. Preceding her senior season, neither major Colorado newspaper ranked the Legacy Lightning in the top ten. Yet that ranking quickly changed as Melissa and her teammates beat, for the first time, their Front Range League rival Horizon High School.

The Lightning, led by Melissa Jones, won a share of the league title and then went on to knock off Regis High School in the Class 5A semifinals. Regis was 21-0 and was the tournament's No. 1 overall seed. Melissa skillfully led the team to the title game clearly showing that the pre-season rankings underestimated her determination. Melissa's skills and abilities, along with her outstanding teammates, carried the Legacy Lightning into the title game. Melissa and the Lightning's success have served as an inspiration and a source of pride for athletes of all stripes in Colorado.

Melissa Jones' statistics for the season included an average of 22.1 points, 8.1 rebounds and 5.1 steals. During the tournament she averaged 29 points and recorded four 30-point performances during the final eight contests.

I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Melissa Jones for her storybook season and well-deserved selection as the Rocky Mountain News' All-Colorado Player of the Year. Her talent, vision and leadership are undeniable, and she is a source of pride for women's basketball, for Legacy High School and for all of Colorado. I wish her continued success in the future.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TRENT FRANKS

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, on March 21, 2007, I was unavoidably detained during a vote on H.R. 327, the Joshua Omvig Veterans Suicide Prevention Act. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

BICENTENNIAL OF THE BRITISH ABOLITION OF THE TRANS-ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the bicentennial of the British abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade.

On March 25, 1807, the British Parliament passed the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Acknowledging this day 200 years later is extremely important because it represents a key event to the abolishment of slavery in Great Britain and the United States. Great Britain will begin to participate in various commemorative activities. Today, here in the United States, the United Nations is also observing the bicentennial by convening a special General Assembly session where speakers from around the globe will discuss their viewpoints about slavery. Rex Nettleford, a historian, will deliver the keynote. I applaud and thank the United Nations and Great Britain for recognizing the historic importance of the passage of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act.

There is a need for people in the United States and around the world to remember and be reminded of the institution of slavery and its impact on the world during times other than Black History Month. The immeasurable sacrifices endured by enslaved people are too significant to be forgotten. I appreciate the work done by so many people and organizations that provide education on slavery and events that led to freedom of slaves in the United States and other countries. Educating people about slavery and the struggle for freedom provides an excellent opportunity to improve race relations, cultural understanding, and diversity.

I have introduced a resolution commemorating the British Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution. One year from now, the United States will participate in activities related to the abolishment of the Trans-Atlantic Slave Trade. I look forward to those activities next year.

YOUTH ACTIVISM ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a special group of young people in Ft. Lauderdale, FL who are raising awareness about the important and urgent issue of human trafficking.

As you may know, human trafficking and forced labor is one of the most prolific areas of international criminal activity and is of significant concern to the United States and the international community. The overwhelming majority of those trafficked are women and children.

According to the most recent Department of State estimates, between 600,000 and 800,000 people are trafficked across borders each year. If trafficking within countries and forced labor are included in the total world figures, estimates rise to 4 to 27 million people.

Human trafficking is now considered a leading source of profits for organized crime generating billions of dollars. Trafficking in persons affects virtually every country in the world. Traffickers exploit poverty, war, natural or man-made disasters, and ignorance.

The students at the Ft. Lauderdale Prep School are raising money to combat global human trafficking and they have created a large mural to commemorate the 200th Anni-

versary of the Abolition of the Trans-Atlantic Slave, which occurred on Friday, March 25th. I commend these students on their efforts to raise awareness on this issue. The passion and motivation of these students are worthy of emulation.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE PEACE PROCESS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to reiterate support for the Good Friday Agreement of 1998 and the St. Andrews Agreement of 2006, and to commend the tireless efforts of all involved in the peace process.

On April 10, 1998, the Good Friday Agreement was signed in Belfast, ending 3 decades of violence known as The Troubles. However, this landmark agreement was unable to deliver a lasting government to Northern Ireland, and in 2002 the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Executive were suspended.

In October of 2006, the process was restored with the St. Andrew's Agreement, which established timetables for the restoration of the government of Northern Ireland and breathed life back into the process. This timetable required that both sides make some serious concessions to establish a peaceful and lasting government.

Gerry Adams of Sinn Fein and Ian Paisley of the Democratic Unionist Party sat together for the first time ever on Monday, March 26, to announce that they had come to an agreement and that a provincial government will be established on May 8th of this year. I would like to commend them for working to establish this government, and urge the rest of my colleagues to join me in congratulating them for their great diplomatic work.

TRIBUTE TO THE EAST AURORA HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 27, 2007

Mr. HIGGINS. Madam Speaker, East Aurora, New York took center stage last week, as the East Aurora High School Girls varsity basketball team earned the distinction of the New York State Class B championship, following a successful 44-41 overtime victory on Saturday, March 17th in Troy, NY.

The East Aurora Blue Devils' team slogan for the 2006-2007 season was "ONE: One Mission, One Goal, One TEAM" and the mission of this very talented team was to reach their goal of making it to the state tournament. Not only did they reach the tournament, they fought their way to the championship game, and to the title itself.

This game marked the first appearance made by the East Aurora Blue Devils in a state final. Additionally, their victory marked the end of a hard fought, record breaking season for the East Aurora Blue Devils who finished the season with a strong record of 24 wins and only 4 losses.